

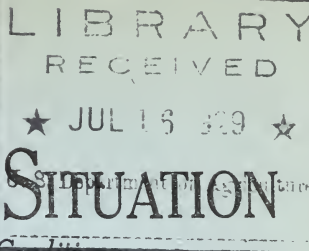
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THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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Washington, D. C.

JULY 1, 1929

Volume 13, No. 7

CROPS SPOTTED—FEWER PIGS—NEW LEGISLATION

The crops have arrived at mid season looking rather spotted. This is the result of the late spring with too much rain, followed by erratic streaks of drought and flood conditions. On the whole, the northern half of the country has been in need of more rain for a month, although many local areas have been unable to tend their crops because of excessive rainfall.

Corn, for example, is late but doing very well in much of the western Corn Belt; whereas there are areas in Missouri, Illinois, southern Iowa, and elsewhere which show corn in all sorts of stages—many fields recently replanted and many others choked with weeds, due to wet weather.

Cotton has made fairly good progress. The eastern crop is late but quite clean and well cultivated. Farther westward, many grassy fields bespeak the persistent rains. Cotton is beginning to come into market from the Gulf territory.

Wheat harvest and haying are both getting into full swing. One important item in the hay situation is the great improvement in the eastern clover and alfalfa crops over last year. On the other hand, dry weather has hurt meadows in the far West, where hay will be a short crop over some extensive areas.

This month will largely tell the story as to wheat. Reports so far have indicated a somewhat disappointing yield of wheat. There are certain dry areas in Kansas and up in the spring-wheat territory where the crop has headed rather short, while heavy rains have done considerable damage in the Southwest. Threshing returns from the Southwest generally have not been up to expectations.

This bureau's annual June pig survey, released a few days ago, indicates that the pig crop this spring was about 8 per cent smaller than last spring. The decrease in the 11 Corn Belt States was about 6 per cent. The breeding reports indicate, after the usual statistical allowance, that there will be about the same number of sows to farrow next fall as farrowed last fall. On the whole, this pig survey appears to reflect a stronger market position for hog producers.

A new general factor has entered into the agricultural situation with the passage of the farm relief bill, during the past month. This legislation is of great potential importance in its bearing on production and prices of the chief farm products. A brief abstract of the new law is given herein.

THE NEW FARM RELIEF LAW

The farm aid legislation passed last month is potentially a very important factor in the agricultural situation. Just what will be attempted or accomplished under this legislation remains to be seen. Apparently, however, it carries powers which are capable of influencing the production, distribution, and price of important farm products to a profound degree.

Those who are concerned with economic developments in agriculture should familiarize themselves with this new law. It represents a landmark in the postwar story of economic events.

The following very brief quotations from it are intended only to convey the most general and salient points, and do not include elaborations or limitations mentioned in the law.

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SECTION 1. (a) That it is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to promote the effective merchandising of agricultural commodities in interstate and foreign commerce, so that the industry of agriculture will be placed on a basis of economic equality with other industries, and to that end to protect, control, and stabilize the currents of interstate and foreign commerce in the marketing of agricultural commodities and their food products.

(b) There shall be considered as a surplus for the purposes of this act any seasonal or year's total surplus, produced in the United States and either local or national in extent, that is in excess of the requirements for the orderly distribution of the agricultural commodity, or is in excess of the domestic requirements for such commodity.

FEDERAL FARM BOARD

SEC. 2. A Federal farm board is hereby created, which shall consist of eight members to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and of the Secretary of Agriculture ex officio. In making the appointments, the President shall give due consideration to having the major agricultural commodities produced in the United States fairly represented upon the board. Each appointed member shall receive a salary of \$12,000 a year.

ADVISORY COMMODITY COMMITTEES

(B) The board shall invite the cooperative associations handling any agricultural commodity to establish an advisory commodity committee to consist of seven members, of whom at least two shall be experienced handlers or processors of the commodity, to represent such commodity before the board in matters relating to the commodity. Members of each advisory committee shall be selected by the cooperative associations from time to time in such manner as the board shall prescribe. No salary shall be paid to committee members, but the board shall pay each a per diem compensation not exceeding \$20.

(D) Each advisory committee may by itself or through its officers (1) confer directly with the board, call for information from it, or make oral or written representations to it concerning matters within the jurisdiction of the board and relating to the agricultural commodity, and (2) cooperate with the board in advising the producers through their organizations or otherwise in the development of suitable programs of planting or breeding in order to secure the maximum benefits under this act consistent with the policy declared in section 1.

SPECIAL POWERS OF BOARD

SEC. 5. The board is authorized and directed—

(1) To promote education in the principles and practices of cooperative marketing of agricultural commodities and food products thereof.

(2) To encourage the organization, improvement in methods, and development of effective cooperative associations.

(3) To keep advised from any available sources and make reports as to crop prices, experiences, prospects, supply and demand, at home and abroad.

(4) To investigate conditions of overproduction of agricultural commodities and advise as to the prevention of such overproduction.

(5) To make investigations and reports and publish the same, including investigations and reports upon the following: Land utilization for agricultural purposes, reduction of the acreage of unprofitable marginal lands in cultivation, methods of expanding markets at home and abroad for agricultural commodities and food products thereof, methods of developing by-products of and new uses for agricultural commodities and transportation conditions and their effect upon the marketing of agricultural commodities.

REVOLVING FUND

SEC. 6. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$500,000,000, which shall be made available by the Congress as soon as practicable after the approval of this act, and shall constitute a revolving fund to be administered by the board as provided in this act.

LOANS TO COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

SEC. 7. (a) Upon application by any cooperative association, the board is authorized to make loans to it from the revolving fund to assist in—

(1) The effective merchandizing of agricultural commodities and food products thereof;

(2) The construction or acquisition by purchase or lease of physical marketing facilities for preparing, handling, storing, processing, or merchandising agricultural commodities or their food products;

(3) The formation of clearing-house associations;

(4) Extending membership of the cooperative association applying for the loan by educating the producers of the commodity handled by the association in the advantages of cooperative marketing of that commodity; and

(5) Enabling the cooperative association applying for the loan to advance to its members a greater share of the market price of the commodity delivered to the association than is practicable under other credit facilities.

STABILIZATION CORPORATION

SEC. 9. (a) The board may, upon application of the advisory committee for any commodity, recognize as a stabilization corporation for the commodity any corporation if—

(1) The board finds that the marketing situation with respect to the agricultural commodity requires or may require the establishment of a stabilization corporation in order effectively to carry out the policy declared in section 1; and

(2) The board finds that the corporation is duly organized under the laws of a State or Territory; and

(3) The board finds that all the outstanding voting stock or membership interests in the corporation are and may be owned only by cooperative associations handling the commodity; and

(4) The corporation agrees with the board to adopt such by-laws as the board may from time to time require, which by-laws, among other matters, shall permit cooperative associations not stockholders or members of the corporation to become stockholders or members therein upon equitable terms.

(b) Any stabilization corporation for an agricultural commodity (1) may act as a marketing agency for its stockholders or members in preparing, handling, storing, processing, and merchandising for their account any quantity of the agricultural commodity in furtherance of the policy declared in section 1, may prepare, purchase, handle, store, process, and merchandise, otherwise than for the account of its stockholders or members, any quantity of the agricultural commodity or its food products, whether or not such commodity or products are acquired from its stockholders or members.

(c) Upon request of the advisory committee for any commodity, the board is authorized to make loans from the revolving fund to the stabilization corporation for the commodity for working capital to enable the corporation to act as a marketing agency for its stockholders or members as hereinbefore provided.

(d) Upon request of the advisory committee for any commodity, the board is authorized to make loans from the revolving fund to the stabilization corporation for the commodity to enable the corporation to control any surplus in the commodity as hereinbefore provided and before meeting carrying and handling charges and other operating expenses in connection therewith. The board shall require a stabilization corporation to establish and maintain adequate reserves from its profits from its surplus control operations before it shall pay any dividends out of such profits. All losses of the corporation from such operations shall be paid from such reserves or if such reserves are inadequate, then such losses shall be paid by the board as a loan from the revolving fund.

CLEARING-HOUSE ASSOCIATIONS

SEC. 10. Upon application of any cooperative association handling an agricultural commodity or of producers of an agricultural commodity, the board is authorized, if it deems such association or producers representative of the commodity, to assist in forming producer-controlled clearing-house associations adapted to effecting the economic distribution of the agricultural commodity among the various markets.

PRICE INSURANCE

SEC. 11. The board is authorized, upon application of cooperative associations, to enter into agreements, subject to the conditions hereinafter specified, for the insurance of the cooperative associations against loss through price decline in the agricultural commodity handled by the associations and produced by the members thereof. Such agreements shall be entered into only if, in the judgment of the board, (1) coverage is not available from private agencies at reasonable rates, (2) the insurance will be in furtherance of the policy declared in section 1, (3) the agricultural commodity is regularly bought and sold in the markets in sufficient volume to establish a recognized basic price for the market grades of the commodity, and (4) there is available with respect to the commodity such market information as will afford an accurate record of prevailing prices for the commodity covering a period of years of sufficient length to serve as a basis to calculate the risk and fix the premium for the insurance. The agreements shall require payment of premiums so fixed and shall include such other terms as, in the judgment of the board, are necessary. The board may make advances from the revolving fund to meet obligations under any insurance agreement, but such advances, together with the interest thereon, shall, as soon as practicable, be repaid from the proceeds of insurance premiums.

A. B. GENUNG,
Division of Economic Information, B. A. E.

THE JUNE, 1929, PIG SURVEY

State or section	Pigs saved spring 1929 compared with spring 1928	Sows farrowed spring 1929 compared with spring 1928	Sows bred or to be bred for fall farrowing 1929 com- pared with sows far- rowed fall 1928
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Ohio.....	100.2	91.7	106.3
Indiana.....	95.0	89.8	103.7
Illinois.....	90.7	88.6	115.2
Michigan.....	81.7	79.0	102.2
Wisconsin.....	90.2	90.2	127.0
Minnesota.....	95.6	94.7	136.1
Iowa.....	93.5	92.9	120.0
Missouri.....	91.4	93.7	109.7
North Dakota.....	93.9	98.3	205.9
South Dakota.....	91.9	90.7	166.3
Nebraska.....	97.4	91.4	114.3
Kansas.....	97.2	101.7	119.0
East North Central.....	92.5	89.0	110.4
West North Central.....	94.4	93.7	123.3
North Atlantic.....	85.0	75.0	98.9
South Atlantic.....	84.9	85.7	120.4
South Central.....	79.9	78.3	117.6
Far Western.....	93.7	93.0	119.4
Corn Belt.....	93.9	92.3	117.1
United States total.....	91.6	90.3	117.8

Every year about June 1 the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates gets information from hog raisers all over the United States that shows the change in the size of the spring pig crop compared to that of the previous year.

The survey this June shows a decrease in the spring pig crop this year compared to last. For the United States, as a whole, this decrease amounts to about 8 per cent and for the 11 Corn Belt States, from which comes most of the market supply of hogs, the decrease amounts to about 6 per cent. The decreases in all areas outside the Corn Belt were larger than those in that region and were particularly large in the Southern States. The decrease in the North Atlantic States as a group was 15 per cent; in the South Atlantic, 15 per cent; in the South Central, 20 per cent; and Far Western, 6 per cent.

Within the Corn Belt States the largest decrease was in the area east of the Mississippi River, where it amounted to about 7½ per cent, while in the area west of the Mississippi it was about 5½ per cent.

All of the Corn Belt States showed decreases except Ohio, where there was a very small increase shown. The decreases in the other States of this area were as follows: Indiana, 5 per cent; Illinois, 9 per cent; Michigan, 18 per cent; Wisconsin, 10 per cent; Minnesota, 4 per cent; Iowa, $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; Missouri, 9 per cent; South Dakota, 8 per cent; Nebraska, 3 per cent; and Kansas, 3 per cent.

The decrease in the number of sows that farrowed this past spring was a little more than the decrease in pigs saved, amounting to about 10 per cent for the whole country and 8 per cent for the Corn Belt States. The number of pigs saved per litter was a little larger this spring than last, which tended to offset in part the decrease in sows farrowed.

The June survey also secures information on the number of sows bred or to be bred for fall farrowing compared to the number farrowed in the fall of the previous year. The indications from these reports this year are not entirely clear, but in general they point to some increase in fall farrowing in the Corn Belt States, which will be more than offset by decreases elsewhere.

These reports on intentions to breed, in themselves, have never given accurate indications of actual farrowings. The changes shown by intentions, as reported in June, have always largely exceeded the changes shown in the actual farrowings reported the following December. This difference or "spread" must be taken into consideration in order to reach a conclusion as to the significance of the figures as reported by hog growers.

This year the reported increase in sows bred for fall in the Corn Belt is smaller than the average spread covering all the years for which these surveys have been made, but it is larger than the spread in three of the past four years. In view of the fact that hog prices and the relationship between hog prices and corn prices are favorable to increased hog production, it seems probable that some increase in fall farrowings may take place in the Corn Belt States this fall. For the whole country, however, the reported increase in sows bred is below the average spread of other years and also below the smallest spread in any year; hence, it is probable that there will be no increase in total fall farrowings this year compared to last—with decreases outside the Corn Belt offsetting a probable increase in that area.

With this present survey showing a decrease in the spring pig crop, the question doubtless arises as to just how dependable these surveys have been as indicators of actual changes in hog production. The department has quite complete information as to the marketings of hogs from nearly all of the States in the Corn Belt region, which give a dependable basis for computing the changes in hog production from year to year in that area. From these data the number of pigs saved each year, separated into spring pigs and fall pigs, has been computed for all the years since 1920. The changes in these computed pig crops in the Corn Belt from year to year, when compared to the indicated changes shown by the pig surveys for the seven years, prior to this, for which the surveys have been made, furnish a good measure of the reliability of these surveys.

In general, this evidence shows that the pig surveys have been very dependable indicators as to the direction of change in hog production—whether it has increased or decreased—and have been quite dependable indicators as to the amount of change. The tendency,

however, has been to underindicate the amount of production. That is, when there has been an increase in production, the pig surveys have underindicated this increase and when there has been a decrease, the surveys have tended to overindicate this decrease. For the seven spring surveys, the average underindication has been less than 2½ per cent, and for the past four years it has been about 3 per cent. For the total pig crop—that is, spring and fall combined—the underindication has averaged less than 2 per cent for the 7-year period and a little over 2 per cent for the past four years.

If the survey this spring has underindicated the size of the pig crop in the Corn Belt this spring as it seems to have done in other years, the decrease instead of being 6 per cent, as shown by the survey, was less than 6 per cent, possibly only 3 or 4 per cent.

A decrease of 6 per cent in the Corn Belt spring pig crop would be equivalent to about 2,500,000 head and a decrease of 8 per cent in the total United States pig crop would be equivalent to about 4,250,000 head.

This spring over 150,000 report cards were sent in by the postmasters and nearly 80,000 of these were tabulated. In order to determine the character of the changes in sows farrowing that resulted in the reductions above indicated these reports were separated into three groups—those reporting more sows farrowed this year than last, those reporting less sows farrowed, and those reporting the same for both years. This tabulation shows that about 28 per cent of all farms reported increased farrowings, 42 per cent decreased farrowings, and 30 per cent the same as last year.

C. L. HARLAN,
Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, B. A. E.

FRUITS AND TRUCK CROPS

July is usually an active month for watermelons, eastern potatoes, southeastern peaches, Tennessee tomatoes, southwestern cantaloupes, and California lemons. High temperatures at this time of the year increase the demand for juicy fruits and melons. Hot weather also necessitates the quick handling of highly perishable products to avoid undue spoilage.

Supplies of tree fruits probably will not be much in excess of the market demand this year, as conditions in the fruit belts are rather spotted and production generally will fall below last season's record. California grapes also will be in lighter supply as a result of the severe spring freeze. Early shipments of grapes are already moving.

FEWER PEACHES EAST AND WEST

The crop outlook for peaches in mid-Western States is far better than prospects in the Southeast or in California. General condition of the peach crop on June 1 averaged 55 per cent, compared with 73 per cent on June 1 last season and an average of 64 per cent during the previous 10 years. California, the leading producing State, seems likely to have the smallest crop in 10 years and only half as many peaches as last season. Georgia, which ranks next in importance, promises to have the smallest crop since 1920. Only about 4,000,000 bushels are expected in Georgia, compared with 10,000,000

last year. Ohio also reports very light prospects. The crop in California is hardly expected to exceed 12,340,000 bushels. Total production of 48,759,000 bushels, as indicated in June, would be nearly 20,000,000 less than last season and about 7 per cent below the recent 5-year average.

The entire peach market should be in a fairly satisfactory condition this season. The California pack of canned fruit will be relatively light, and demand for fresh table stock should be good. Early season prices in Georgia held up well. Shipments were gradually increasing, but local estimates indicate less than 10,000 cars to be moved from Georgia points, compared with 16,000 last year and about 12,000 in 1927. The crop is short in both the southern and central part of the State. Movement of Hileys and Elbertas may be only about 55 per cent of last season's output of these varieties. Only 4,800 cars of Elbertas and 2,100 cars of Hileys are expected. Shipments of peaches were becoming active not only in Georgia but in numerous other Southern States and in Arkansas, Illinois, and California.

DECREASED APPLE PRODUCTION

In western New York, Michigan, the Ozark region, Kansas, and Nebraska, the apple crop is expected to be larger than that harvested last year, but in nearly all other States the crop promises to be smaller. In the country as a whole, June condition of orchards indicated that the crop is likely to average about 10 per cent less than the production of 1928 but still substantially heavier than the light crop of 1927. The condition of apples on June 1 was reported as about 67 per cent, compared with 72 last year and an average of 68 during the previous 10 years. Only three States, Maine, Vermont, and Wyoming, showed condition above 90 per cent. Washington reported 76 per cent, as against 85 on June 1, 1928, and West Virginia 48 per cent, compared with 64 a year ago.

Movement of summer apples began about the usual time, during the first week of June, and has been gaining during recent weeks. Early shipments were much heavier than those of last summer. Leading sources, so far, have been Tennessee, Illinois, Alabama, and New Jersey. The price in terminal markets was around \$3 per bushel.

The 1928-29 apple season was ending with a record of about 127,500 cars, or very close to the number predicted six months ago. Cold-storage houses were practically emptied of 1928 apples, as only about 1,200,000 bushels remained on June 1. This was approximately one-third less than the holdings of a year ago and one-third below the average figure of the last five seasons.

PROSPECTS IN CANADA AND EUROPE

As exports of United States apples compete actively with fruit from Canada and with crops in Europe, it is of interest to note that Canadian blossom prospects are for an average to good crop of fruit this season. The blossoming of apples has been the heaviest in years in the eastern Provinces, especially in Nova Scotia, which now promises a record crop. Conditions in British Columbia were quite promising. Outturn of about 75 per cent of the 1928 crop is expected, but last year's production in British Columbia was very heavy.

Trade reports from continental Europe indicate that apple production will be generally medium to good, and above the poor crops of last year except in Austria and the Italian Tyrol. Pear prospects are reported good except in Germany and Czechoslovakia. Frosts have caused some damage to pears.

PEARS MOVING TO MARKET

Initial shipments of California pears were reported during the third week of June. The estimated crop of about 6,900,000 bushels in that State is one-fourth less than last season's production. Because of the lighter supply of Bartletts for canning, both the pack and the price probably will be affected, a lighter pack and a higher price.

General reports on the condition of pears indicate prospects somewhat poorer than usual. In Washington and Oregon, where the number of pear trees of bearing age has been increasing rapidly, the production may be up to the average of the last few years. California and New York both expect light crops, and elsewhere prospects are only fair. June 1 conditions indicate a crop of 20,663,000 bushels, compared with the 23,783,000 bushels harvested last year. The condition of the pear crop on June 1 was 58.5 per cent, compared with 70 last year and an average of 65.5 during the previous 10 years.

OTHER FRUITS LIMITED

In both California and Florida, the reported condition of citrous crops on June 1 approached the low condition reported in June, 1927. Present prospects are decidedly less favorable than last year, and the reported condition of all citrous fruits in these States is well below the usual average. Prospects are, however, much more favorable in Texas and Arizona, where the condition of citrous fruits averages about 90 per cent.

The Florida season had ended with a high record of 32,415 cars of oranges, 21,840 cars of grapefruit, and 9,000 cars of mixed citrus. All remaining fruit in zone 1 of the Mediterranean fruit-fly quarantine belt in Florida was being destroyed, and the new crop in infested territory probably will not be allowed to mature. During late June California was still shipping 1,800 cars of oranges weekly, or three times as many as a year ago. Lemon shipments were averaging 750 cars each week in addition to imports.

Cherries in California were a relatively light crop, and shipments to date have been one-third less than last season. Eastern States report a fair condition for the cherry crop, and the situation in the Pacific Northwest seems more encouraging than that in other districts. Heavy rains, however, seriously curtailed the crop in the Milton-Freewater area.

Plum and prune shipments to market, so far, have been only about one-third as heavy as last summer. Condition of California prunes for drying was only 42 per cent of normal, as against 71 per cent on June 1, 1928. Production of California dried prunes is forecast at 128,000 tons, or 92,000 less than in 1928. Condition of Washington prunes for drying was reported as 76 per cent and prunes for marketing fresh 84 per cent of normal. The condition of the Idaho fresh prune crop was 90 per cent on June 1.

Canneries in California, according to trade reports, will pay \$55 per ton of No. 1 apricots and \$40 per ton of No. 2 stock. Though lower than anticipated, these prices are said to be fairly satisfactory to growers.

STRAWBERRIES ABOUT FINISHED

The 1929 strawberry season did not work out exactly as expected. Instead of occurring about June 1, peak shipments came during the week of May 12-18. The Missouri season was especially disappointing, and the Pacific Northwest crop did not turn out as well as anticipated. Shipments from all States by June 20 totaled about 18,600 cars, or slightly less than last season, though the crop was forecast at nearly 353,000,000 quarts, an increase of 29,000,000 over the 1928 crop.

Strawberry production in eight late-shipping States was forecast at 77,850,000 quarts, or 15 per cent more than last year. Much of the increase is in New York, Ohio, and Michigan. Wisconsin, with about 6,000,000 quarts, has nearly twice as many berries as last season.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUCK CROPS

Imperial Valley of California was experiencing a very favorable cantaloupe season. The crop matured later than usual and was of good quality. Shipments were totaling 2,500 cars a week toward the end of June. The Arizona season is now under way. A preliminary report of cantaloupe plantings in 12 intermediate States indicates a total of 44,780 acres, or just about the same as last year. Substantial decreases in Arkansas, Indiana, and North Carolina are largely offset by increases in California and Arizona. Parts of California outside the Imperial Valley have about 12,200 acres this year, while Arizona has increased to 11,500 acres. Maryland has about 6,300 acres.

Current shipments of watermelons were exceeding the movement of all other individual fruits or vegetables. In order to supply the Fourth of July market, weekly output had reached 7,200 acres. The Florida season was nearly ended, and Georgia had taken the lead, with Texas and California also active. Cash-track prices in southern Georgia dropped to \$115 to \$250 per carload. The Texas f. o. b. market was rather dull. Arrivals of watermelons so far this year have been nearly two and a half times those of the early part of last season, totaling 17,400 cars by June 20. Prices tended sharply downward under the heavy supply.

Production of cabbage in 14 intermediate States is forecast at 175,000 tons, or about 10,000 more than last season. Acreage was reduced, but average yields per acre may be nearly 8 tons. Long Island expects 30,800 tons, an increase of 3,600 over 1928. New Jersey may be increased by one-fourth to a total of 50,400 tons, but substantial decreases are noted in southwestern Virginia, in Tennessee and Iowa. Principal sources recently have been Tennessee, Virginia, and Maryland.

The tomato season is opening in western Tennessee. Rather satisfactory prices were reported in eastern Texas and central Mississippi, and those States are finishing with shipment records of about 4,000 cars and 4,500 cars, respectively.

Quality of lettuce in the Salinas-Watsonville district of California was improving. Prices have held up well at shipping points. Washington is having a fairly good lettuce season, and movement is now becoming active in Colorado.

A bumper crop of good quality onions is expected in southern Washington. The Walla Walla season was scheduled to open about July 4. California was the leading shipping State during late June, but Iowa onions will soon be on the market. Prices have been firm. Main-crop onions are delayed and are growing under adverse conditions in some States.

PAUL FROELICH,
Division of Fruits and Vegetables, B. A. E.

THE HAY MARKET SITUATION

Hay supplies for the current year, from present indications, will not be greatly different from those of last season, with prospects of a larger crop more than offsetting the reduction in the carry-over of old hay.

Demand for hay is largely determined by weather conditions throughout the season and to some extent by prices of other feedstuffs. During the past two seasons consumption of hay, as measured by disappearance, has been unusually heavy and has exceeded that of any preceding year. This suggests a continued fair demand for the current year and that offerings of good quality hay will find a ready market. Medium to lower grades, in general, move more slowly and producers of these types should consider carefully the probable market value of the lower-grade hay before incurring expenses of baling and shipping, which may be greater than the market value of the hay.

The condition of the tame-hay crop at the 1st of June was 86.6 per cent of normal as against the rather low condition of 76.6 per cent of June last year and an average condition of 85.7 for the period 1918-1927. Prospects are better than usual in most States east of the Mississippi River and in the western Corn Belt. They are about average in the Southwest. In other States prospects are poorer than usual and in the Western States very much poorer. The Western States as a group seem likely to have the smallest hay crop since 1924.

Clover and timothy meadows were much better than a year ago, when they had suffered materially from winterkilling in some important producing areas, particularly in the North Central States. The condition this year at the 1st of June was 88 per cent compared with the low condition of 73.1 per cent on the corresponding date last year. The condition of alfalfa June 1 was 86.9 per cent of normal as compared with 82.8 per cent last year and a 10-year average condition of 89.1 per cent. The crop is average or better in the tier of Plains States from South Dakota to Texas, but much below average in the Western States, except New Mexico. Wild-hay conditions were about 83 per cent of normal, being about 3 per cent lower than average but 8 per cent higher than on June 1 last year.

Weather conditions have been unfavorable for harvesting the early cuttings of prairie and alfalfa in the southern and southwestern areas during the past month, and offerings of out-of-condition hay at some

points have had a weakening influence on the markets. Prairie harvesting in Texas and part of Oklahoma has been delayed by rainy weather and the quality of the hay in these areas has deteriorated. First cuttings of alfalfa in Oklahoma and parts of Kansas were also damaged by unfavorable harvesting weather. Receipts of hay at terminal market, shipped from these sections, have been of unsatisfactory quality for trade requirements. Shippers in these areas have recently had difficulty in securing sufficient quantities of hay of satisfactory quality for filling orders.

Early reports of quality of hay in the more northern sections of Kansas and Nebraska are more favorable and the quality of offerings from the new crop in these areas is good.

It is too early for any definite indication of the quality of the total hay crop this season and much will depend upon weather conditions during the coming month. Harvesting of timothy and clover in the largest producing areas will not be general until July and later cuttings of alfalfa may show material improvement over the earlier harvestings. Last season there was a large proportion of poor quality hay. The alfalfa crop was of particularly low grade, with a good share of the damage occurring in the surplus areas.

Hay markets have responded to the influence of the large supplies available during the past two seasons and price levels for these crops have been below those of other recent years. During the past year prices of all classes for most of the period have held above those of 1927-28, when supplies were the largest on record. Timothy and prairie prices since the moderate decline at the beginning of the season, have tended upward and quotations for top grades have been relatively steady. Timothy prices at the middle of June were only around 50 cents higher than at the same time last year. Prairie prices at the same time were around \$2 above those of 1928.

Alfalfa prices have shown greater fluctuations and for most of the season have not only been above those of a year ago but also above those of other recent years. The higher alfalfa prices were partly the result of scarcity of top-grade alfalfa and also of the increasing demand for this type of hay and its more general usage in the feed rations for the various classes of livestock. The active demand for high-grade alfalfa hay suitable for dairies forced prices to the high point of \$38 for No. 1 extra leafy alfalfa at Kansas City at the middle of March. Since that date prices have declined sharply with the heavier movement of new crop alfalfa from the Western States, and the price of No. 1 alfalfa at the middle of June averaged around \$2 below a year ago.

There has been a decided shift in the market movement of hay during recent years and a material increase in the direct movement from surplus to consuming areas, as well as in direct purchases by stockyards, alfalfa mills, and feed manufacturers. Receipts at 12 important distributing markets for the crop year, June through July, 1927-28, totaled only 69,000 cars as against 96,000 cars for the corresponding period of 1924-25. The most significant decrease is shown at New York, where receipts during the 1927-28 season were only 4,000 cars as compared with 10,600 for the same period of 1924-25. Receipts at Chicago were 7,600 cars against 10,600 cars in 1924-25, while Kansas City receipts totaled 20,000 cars against 25,000 in

1924-25. Some of these reductions may be accounted for in greater direct shipments but are also due in part to the increase in the number of motor trucks and the smaller number of draft horses in use.

During the past two seasons, notwithstanding the large amounts of hay available, demand has been fairly active throughout the season, and domestic consumption has been the heaviest on record. Factors influencing the heavier feeding have been the relatively high prices for feedstuffs and unusually severe winter weather in important feeding areas. Dry weather, which has prevailed during recent weeks in important grazing areas of the West and Southwest, threatens the forage supplies for these sections for the coming winter and may stimulate the inquiry for hay.

Grain, Hay, and Feed Market News Service, B. A. E.

THE MIDSUMMER POTATO SITUATION

A July potato situation somewhat like that of 1925 seems to be working out. Total production and the progress of the shipping season appear much the same in both seasons. The 12 per cent larger production compared with that of 1925 is partly balanced by a population probably 5 or 6 per cent greater. Virginia, with a crop much like that of 1925, seems likely to rule the July market again, Kaw Valley having a crop even lighter than in 1925. If market history should repeat itself, the July price would advance sharply from the low point of June.

The prospect for August will depend more on mid-season crop sections, including New Jersey and others where production is not yet lined up. The general potato-crop report of July 10 will be likely to throw light on this part of the situation. So far as weather reports go, the excess of rain in the Central South and Middle West during the spring months, and some recent lack of moisture in various eastern potato districts, suggest growing conditions to that extent less favorable than those of last season.

The shipping movement has been orderly for the most part. Now that the North Carolina output is disposed of, there should be little overlapping during the rest of the early season. In June this year, prices moved up promptly when total daily shipments fell to about 700 cars, but markets declined sharply following a few days' shipments of around 1,200 carloads.

MODERATE SUPPLY IN SIGHT

During the past three seasons, shipments from the early crop averaged 72 per cent of the production. The percentage was the same for the 1925 crop. On this basis the output from the early-crop section this year would be close to 50,000 cars, about midway between the shipments of 1925 and 1926 but far below the 77,000 cars of last year, or even the 66,000 car average of the past three seasons.

The price has shown a tendency to advance in seasons of light shipment. The rise in July, 1925, amounted to about \$1.50 a barrel in the Eastern Shore section and there were further gains during August. In 1925, with the shipments from the early crop 10 per cent

larger than this season, the price held nearly steady in August. Judging, then, from other seasons resembling this one, considerable resistance might be expected to the usual declining tendency of July and August, and it would seem fairly safe to hold potatoes to full maturity for August shipment when they are not quite ready for market in July.

STEADY SHIPMENT INDICATED

Averaging the past three seasons, the early-crop area, 18 States, has shipped in car lots about one-fifth of its estimated production in July and one-eighth in August. Reckoning on this basis, the group of 18 States would move 15,000 carloads in July and 8,000 to 9,000 in August, compared with 20,000 and with 12,000 to 13,000, respectively, a year ago. Half a dozen States not in the early area usually contribute about 1,000 carloads in July, and 4,000 to 7,000 carloads in August, bringing the total for August from all sources fairly close to July. In short crop years, the early crop is usually moved along fast, and market room is made during August for about 6,000 carloads or more from the early parts of the main-crop area. If the price should be fairly attractive, we may expect as many this season. In that event, there would be about 16,000 carloads of potatoes from all sources in July, and in August anywhere from 12,000 to 20,000, according to the quantity remaining in the early area and the opening activity of the late sections. Since the season so far this year has been late, it seems possible that the early crop shipments of August will have only moderate competition with early dug potatoes of the main-crop region.

In other words, the market should continue fairly favorable during August. Still, the early crop must be kept moving steadily because the indicated crop shortage is in the South rather than in the North, and shipments increase rapidly after the main-crop movement begins.

If the attempts to regulate shipments in the early sections should fail and an undue proportion of the early crop is shipped in June and July, the midsummer market probably would be weak but prospects would improve for August and the price might even recover to higher levels than in July. There is some disposition to overdo the shipping movement whenever the price recovers a little. This tendency is partly a carry-over from last season's hard experience, but in a year of moderate production no need appears to rush the midsummer crop to market. When potato shipments run far above 700 cars daily for any great length of time, the markets are soon oversupplied and prices tend to decline.

ORDERLY MARKET POSSIBLE

The situation holds possibilities of a steady, orderly summer market. Production is light in the early crop region. The crop started to market early and continued ahead of schedule, as the season moved northward. In this way, probably more than half the early crop shipments have gone forward already. The early crop should find plenty of market room if shipments are kept within moderate limits all the time.

The northern and western crop started late and may be delayed in maturity, making a small gap possible between the early and late seasons and a moderate supply of potatoes in August and early Septem-

ber. Such conditions would promote a well-sustained price level, although any trend toward especially high prices would be limited because such conditions would lead to early digging in the main-crop region.

G. B. FISKE,
Division of Fruits and Vegetables, B. A. E.

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Million pounds, 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

	May			January to May, inclusive		
	1929	1928	Per cent change	1929	1928	Per cent change
Creamery butter.....	163	154	+ 5. 9	602	579	+ 4. 0
Farm butter.....	63	64	- 1. 7	215	219	- 1. 7
Total butter.....	226	218	+ 3. 7	817	798	+ 2. 5
Cheese.....	41	44	- 6. 7	138	154	- 10. 4
Condensed and evaporated milk.....	257	220	+ 16. 8	848	799	+ 6. 1
Total milk equivalent.....	5, 804	5, 573	+ 4. 1	20, 670	20, 295	+ 1. 9

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Butter.....	204	208	- 1. 8	833	829	+ 0. 4
Cheese.....	41	42	- 5. 1	192	197	- 2. 6
Condensed and evaporated milk.....	199	176	+ 16. 8	825	760	+ 8. 5
Total milk equivalent.....	5, 182	5, 225	- 0. 8	21, 469	21, 285	+ 0. 9

T. R. PIRTLE,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

THE DAIRY SITUATION

If there is anything which stands out particularly in the dairy situation this month, it is the continued steadiness of the markets. The flush season is now well under way and production is showing changes each week, but when these are considered in relation to what has occurred other seasons, and what dairy interests have anticipated would occur this year, the net result is that price changes have been slight.

Butter prices, of course, are a little lower than last year, although the June average promises at this writing (June 25) to be very close to June, 1928. It has been a long time since prices have followed as steady course as during the latter part of May and the early part of this month. As a matter of fact, from May 13 to June 7, a period of almost four weeks, the wholesale price of 92-score butter at New York City was unchanged at 43 cents. There is seldom much variation between high and low prices during the month of June, but an unchanged price over so long a period, part of which was in May, is very unusual.

Cheese prices have also shown very little change during recent weeks. Quoted prices for principal styles of American cheese handled on Wisconsin cheese boards have not changed since the first week of April. The 1929 situation, therefore, is a direct contrast to the usual changes which occur to both butter and cheese prices during the spring and early summer months.

A general tendency for butter prices to become more stable was in evidence throughout all of last year, so that 1929 may be following along in what will be a permanent change. Just what the factors are which have caused this is hard to say, but some important changes in the organization of the dairy industry, as well as changes in methods of merchandising, during recent years, may have contributed.

Conditions in dairy sections so far this year have been generally favorable for production, and it was only during the past week that reports indicated hot weather was beginning to show its effect. Up to this time, current trade reports indicated that there had been substantial increases in butter production each week. The increases, however, were not so great over corresponding periods of last year as they were some weeks back. It is believed that production is about at the peak in some of the more important dairy States, unless there should come an unusual spell of cool weather. Pastures are generally reported as in fairly good condition.

The last estimate of total United States butter production for May, shows an increase of 5.9 per cent over May, 1928, and this report indicates no unusual changes in any of the individual States, except California and Oregon on the Pacific coast, where the percentage decreases under last year were quite heavy. On the basis of previous months' estimates, the total butter production for January to May, inclusive, was 4 per cent greater than the same five months of 1928.

Cheese production continues its downward trend, compared with previous years, with substantial reductions in Wisconsin which have not been made up in any of the newer cheese areas. Canned-milk production is heavier than a year ago, particularly evaporated goods. Very keen selling competition has continued, and while this has kept markets somewhat unsettled, the general tone seems to be healthier than a month ago.

The season's storage movement has taken form the past month, and active storing of butter is under way. This has occurred in spite of the fact that operators whose interests are mostly speculative were not prominently in the market. Distributors with known established outlets seem to have been consistently storing butter where it was not possible to realize immediate profits. Stocks on June 1 were 28,400,000 pounds, compared with 16,000,000 pounds on June 1 of last year, and a 5-year average of 21,400,000 pounds. According to weekly reports since the first of the month, holdings in a number of the more important storage centers show a much larger surplus over last year now than existed in these same markets on June 1, so that the July 1 report may reveal stocks of around 80,000,000 to 85,000,000 pounds. The 5-year average for July 1 is about 76,000,000 pounds. Stocks of American cheese June 1 were 47,600,000 pounds, an excess of 9,000,000 pounds over June 1 last year and about 14,000,000 pounds greater than the 5-year average. The heavier stocks of cheese are, of course, offset by this year's lighter production.

L. M. DAVIS,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

THE EGG AND POULTRY SITUATION

The egg-market situation continues to be irregular and somewhat abnormal as compared with normal developments the past few years. More often than not prices show gradual advances during June. Receipts begin to show rather marked decreases from the high point of April or May. Into-storage movement continues but at a gradually slackening pace.

This year June prices have worked gradually downward. As late as the 24th of the month, egg prices at the leading markets had reached a point about 1 cent lower than at the beginning. Last year during the same period, advances totaling slightly more than 1 cent were recorded, and last year's advance was considered as normal for the season. At the outset of June this year the prevailing price levels were about 1 cent higher than a year earlier, and now toward the close, the two years are just about on a par.

The peak month in egg receipts is usually April as it was this year. Last year it was in May. After the peak is reached rather marked declines occur each month until December. This year it appears that the decline in receipts, during June, as compared with the previous month has not been as marked as usual. Up to June 21, receipts at the four leading markets have been about 12 per cent less than for the first 21 days of May. Last year, the receipts for the period June 1 to 21 were nearly 25 per cent less than for the first 21 days of May, 1928.

These figures tend to show that receipts, and hence presumably production, have not decreased as rapidly as last year. Receipts are running heavier than a year ago, in contrast to the rather marked comparative decreases seen in all but one of the preceding months this year. Arrivals up to June 21 at the four markets were practically 5 per cent greater than those during the corresponding period

in 1928. This has not been sufficient, of course, to bring the total for the year to date up to the mark of last year but has tended to cut down the comparative deficiency.

The movement into storage has not shown as much decrease as usual with the coming of June. This is the result largely, of course, of the fact that receipts have not declined as rapidly as usual. This year the increase in storage holdings during the first three weeks of June was about 11 per cent less than the increase for the first three weeks of May. Last year the same comparison showed an increase that was 40 per cent less in June than in May. This rather clearly indicates that the storing activity has not shown nearly as much slackening as it did last year, which year, as a matter of fact, tended toward more June storing than usual, if there was any deviation from the normal course of events. The increase in storage holdings thus far in June has been more than 12 per cent larger than the increase which occurred last year, in direct contrast to the lighter storing reported ever since the new storing period got under way. It thus appears that the July 1 storage report for the United States will show a reduction in the shortage, as compared with last year, from that seen on June 1.

As a result of these developments, the egg market is not in as firm a position now as it was a month ago. Some of the confidence caused by the light receipts, light cold-storage holdings, and firm prices, has disappeared. Still the general situation is fairly steady, and there are many of the trade ready and willing to put eggs in storage, especially those who had not operated extensively earlier in the season. Sentiment regarding the outlook is considerably divided, some holding that production from now on should exceed last year, and that the reduction to date is largely the result of late starting. Others lean to the belief that reduced numbers of chickens on hand will tend to keep the total production lighter than last year. On one point there is general agreement. This is that the hatch this year has been substantially heavier than last year, and that the pullet egg crop, when it comes in, should be larger than a year ago.

The poultry markets have eased off generally during the past month. This has been particularly true of frozen goods, which have had considerable competition from fresh-killed stock. With heavier supplies of broilers and chickens coming on, it is the season of natural price declines, and rather marked price declines have been noted during June on practically all classes of poultry. Consumption has apparently been affected adversely by the rather high prices that have prevailed generally this year, and at times the fairly heavy receipts could not be moved and were of necessity sent to storage. The situation is still regarded as steady, however, especially on the large-size birds, and in some sections some speculative activity was seen, following the decline in prices.

C. E. ECKLES,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

AVERAGE PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS

Actual prices received by producers at local farm markets as reported to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

	5-year average, August, 1909- July, 1914	May average, 1910- 1914	May, 1928	April, 1929	May, 1929
Cotton, per pound-----cents--	12. 4	12. 7	20. 1	18. 5	18. 0
Corn, per bushel-----do-----	64. 2	66. 2	102. 5	87. 5	86. 2
Wheat, per bushel-----do-----	88. 4	90. 3	144. 3	99. 8	90. 1
Hay, per ton-----dollars-----	11. 87	12. 28	10. 70	12. 30	12. 15
Potatoes, per bushel-----cents--	69. 7	69. 5	103. 3	55. 3	59. 5
Oats, per bushel-----do-----	39. 9	41. 5	62. 0	45. 8	44. 6
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds -----dollars-----	5. 22	5. 50	9. 09	9. 53	9. 72
Hogs, per 100 pounds-----do-----	7. 23	7. 23	8. 82	10. 20	9. 96
Eggs, per dozen-----cents--	21. 5	16. 7	24. 2	23. 0	24. 4
Butter, per pound-----do-----	25. 5	24. 1	42. 9	44. 4	43. 6
Butterfat, per pound-----do-----			44. 4	46. 5	45. 4
Wool, per pound-----do-----	17. 7	17. 8	37. 0	33. 8	31. 3
Veal calves, per 100 pounds -----dollars-----	6. 75	6. 59	11. 18	12. 10	12. 11
Lambs, per 100 pounds do-----	5. 91	6. 46	13. 03	13. 36	12. 79
Horses, each-----do-----	142. 00	144. 00	86. 00	85. 00	85. 00

The advance in the farm price of hogs which extended through the first four months of 1929 was terminated by a 2 per cent decline from April 15 to May 15. Nevertheless, at \$9.96 per 100 pounds on May 15, the farm price was still about 13 per cent higher than a year ago. The farm price decline after April 15 was accompanied by an increase in receipts at seven primary markets. Hog receipts during the 4-week period ending May 18 were approximately 3 per cent higher than during the corresponding period ending April 20. The heaviest May 1 stocks of lard on record were apparently an additional weakening factor influencing the downward movement of hog prices. The corn-hog ratio declined from April 15 to May 15, dropping from 11.7 to 11.6 for the United States and from 14.2 to 13.6 for Iowa.

The farm price of corn continued to decline from April 15 to May 15. The decline of 1 per cent during the period was fairly general for the country as a whole. The decline in the farm price was accompanied by indications of larger May 1 farm stocks than in 1928 and continued heavy supplies relative to prospective feeding requirements.

The farm price of wheat declined approximately 10 per cent from April 15 to May 15. At 90 cents per bushel on May 15 the farm price was about 38 per cent below a year ago and at the lowest level since August, 1923. This sharp break in wheat prices was accompanied by indications of a relatively large carry-over of wheat in the United States and prospects of a winter wheat crop approximately 3 per cent larger than last year. Reports on acreage sown to wheat for the 1929 harvest in 16 foreign countries indicate a 1 per cent increase over that sown for harvest in 1928.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910-1914=100]

Year and month	Whole-sale prices of all commodities ¹	Industrial wages ²	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in—			Farm wages	Taxes ³
			Living	Pro-duction	Living production		
1910	103	-----	98	98	98	97	-----
1911	95	-----	100	103	101	97	-----
1912	101	-----	101	98	100	101	-----
1913	102	-----	100	102	100	104	-----
1914	100	-----	102	99	101	101	100
1915	103	101	107	103	106	102	102
1916	129	114	125	121	123	112	104
1917	180	129	148	152	150	140	106
1918	198	160	180	176	178	176	118
1919	210	185	214	192	205	206	130
1920	230	222	227	175	206	239	155
1921	150	203	165	142	156	150	217
1922	152	197	160	140	152	146	232
1923	156	214	161	142	153	166	246
1924	152	218	162	143	154	166	249
1925	162	223	165	149	159	168	250
1926	154	229	164	144	156	171	253
1927	149	231	161	144	154	170	-----
1928	153	232	162	146	156	169	-----
May—							
1921	148	204	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1922	150	194	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1923	159	218	-----	-----	155	-----	-----
1924	150	217	-----	-----	154	-----	-----
1925	158	221	-----	-----	160	-----	-----
1926	155	226	-----	-----	156	-----	-----
1927	147	230	-----	-----	154	-----	-----
1928	154	230	-----	-----	156	-----	-----
1928							
October	153	234	-----	-----	-----	175	-----
November	151	233	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
December	151	237	162	146	156	-----	-----
1929							
January	152	234	-----	-----	-----	162	-----
February	151	236	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
March	153	239	161	149	156	-----	-----
April	152	237	-----	-----	-----	167	-----
May	150	236	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Index for 1928 obtained by multiplying new series by 156.6.² Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June, 1914=100.³ Index of estimate of total taxes paid on all farm property. 1914=100.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base; August, 1909–July, 1914=100]

Year and month	Index number of farm prices							Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought ¹	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	Cotton and cotton-seed	All groups (30 items)		
1910-----	104	91	103	100	104	113	103	98	106
1911-----	96	106	87	97	91	101	95	101	93
1912-----	106	110	95	103	101	87	99	100	99
1913-----	92	92	108	100	101	97	100	100	99
1914-----	103	100	112	100	105	85	102	101	101
1915-----	120	83	104	98	103	78	100	106	95
1916-----	126	123	120	102	116	119	117	123	95
1917-----	217	202	173	125	157	187	176	150	118
1918-----	226	162	202	152	185	245	200	178	112
1919-----	231	189	206	173	206	247	209	205	102
1920-----	231	249	173	188	222	248	205	206	99
1921-----	112	148	108	148	161	101	116	156	75
1922-----	105	152	113	134	139	156	124	152	81
1923-----	114	136	106	148	145	216	135	153	88
1924-----	129	124	109	134	147	211	134	154	87
1925-----	156	160	139	137	161	177	147	159	92
1926-----	129	189	146	136	156	122	136	156	87
1927-----	128	155	139	138	141	128	131	154	85
1928-----	130	146	150	140	150	152	139	156	90
May—									
1921-----	116	132	111	141	111	78	112	-----	-----
1922-----	115	206	119	126	114	144	127	-----	-----
1923-----	123	157	108	142	117	211	135	155	87
1924-----	114	132	107	128	109	222	129	154	84
1925-----	159	162	139	132	131	184	146	160	91
1926-----	131	240	148	130	135	130	139	156	89
1927-----	127	158	137	136	112	113	126	154	82
1928-----	160	181	151	136	128	166	148	156	95
1928									
October---	116	114	160	143	168	147	137	156	88
November---	110	109	150	144	185	146	134	156	86
December---	112	108	143	146	197	148	134	156	86
1929									
January---	115	109	146	145	161	148	133	156	86
February---	123	111	150	144	158	149	136	156	87
March-----	124	112	160	144	144	155	140	156	89
April-----	120	110	164	142	127	152	138	² 156	² 88
May-----	113	119	164	139	134	148	136	² 156	² 87

¹ These index numbers are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production, reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

² Preliminary.

COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[June 1 holdings (shows nearest million; i. e. 000,000 omitted)]

Commodity	5-year average	Year ago	Month ago	June 1, 1929
Apples-----barrels--	1	1	1	-----
Creamery butter-----pounds--	21	16	6	28
American cheese-----do-----	34	37	42	48
Case eggs-----cases--	¹ 7, 791	¹ 8, 168	¹ 3, 952	¹ 6, 704
Total poultry-----pounds--	51	44	53	42
Total beef-----do-----	56	37	71	57
Total pork-----do-----	784	919	924	871
Lard-----do-----	134	186	185	184
Lamb and mutton, frozen--do-----	2	1	3	2
Total meats-----do-----	907	1, 023	1, 085	1, 013

¹ 3 figures omitted.

There were 391,000 barrels of apples left on hand this date, compared with 602,000 a year ago, and a 5-year average of 573,000.

There was a heavy into-storage movement of creamery butter during May. The increase was 22,545,000 pounds, or 383 per cent. Last year the increase during May was 10,843,000, or 212 per cent. Stocks were 6,968,000 pounds heavier than the 5-year average.

American cheese holdings were increased by 5,568,000 pounds and were approximately 11,000,000 pounds above last year and 14,000,000 greater than the 5-year average. Total stocks of all varieties of cheese were increased by 6,423,000 which places holdings above last year by 12,051,000 pounds and 13,531,000 above the 5-year average.

Case eggs stocks were increased by 2,752,000 cases, as compared with 3,653,000 cases for May, 1928. The increase per cent for 1929 was 69 compared with 81 for 1928. Holdings were the lowest for for this date since 1920.

There was an increasingly heavy in-movement of frozen egg meats. The increase was 19,715,000 pounds, which compares with 16,409,000 pounds last year and a 5-year average movement of 12,250,000. Holdings were 3,599,000 pounds above a year ago and 24,768,000 above the 5-year average.

Frozen poultry stocks were reduced to 41,825,000 pounds which is the lowest point reached at this date since 1924. There were about 2,000,000 less on hand than a year ago and over 9,000,000 less than the 5-year average.

Frozen and cured beef stocks were reduced by 13,572,000 pounds. The out-movement a year ago was 8,982,000. Holdings were about 20,000,000 pounds heavier than the same date last year, and 1,000,000 above the 5-year average.

Total pork stocks were cut down by approximately 52,000,000, which left June 1 stocks about 48,000,000 less than last year and 87,000,000 above the 5-year average.

There was a slight reduction in lard stocks amounting to close to a million pounds. However, there were still something over 2,000,000

pounds on hand in excess of last year and fairly close to 50,000,000 in excess of the 5-year average.

WM. BROXTON,
Cold-Storage Report Section, B. A. E.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

	May, 1928	April, 1929	May, 1929	Month's trend
PRODUCTION				
Pig iron daily (thousand tons) ..	106	¹ 122	126	Increase.
Bituminous coal (million tons) ..	37	37	40	Do.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons)	4, 207	4, 938	5, 273	Do.
CONSUMPTION				
Cotton by mills (thousand bales) ..	¹ 577	632	668	Do.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation (thousand tons).	3, 417	4, 428	4, 304	Decrease.
Building contracts in 27 North-eastern States (million dollars).	592	557	510	Do.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands) ---	2, 420	2, 258	2, 083	Do.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands) ..	1, 120	1, 080	979	Do.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands) ..	951	1, 049	1, 101	Increase.
MOVEMENTS				
Bank clearings (New York) (billion dollars).	37	35	37	Do.
Carloadings (thousands) ----- ¹	4, 005	3, 984	4, 206	Do.
Mail-order sales (million dollars) ..	40	56	55	Decrease
Employees, New York State factories (thousands).	454	488	484	Do.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars).	267	358	363	Increase.
Interest rate (4-6 months' paper, New York) (per cent).	¹ 4. 50	6. 00	6. 00	Un- changed.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor). ²	154	152	153	Increase.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor). ³	99	97	96	Decrease.

¹ Revised.

² 1913=100.

³ 1926=100.

Data on this page, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the "Survey of Current Business," Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce.

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by division of statistical research of this bureau.

Year and month	Wheat, including flour ¹	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon, hams, and shoulders ²	Lard	Total meats ³	Cotton running bales ⁴
Total—	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 bales</i>
1920-----	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	1, 043, 500	6, 111
1921-----	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	786, 280	6, 385
1922-----	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	733, 832	6, 015
1923-----	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	958, 472	5, 224
1924-----	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	729, 832	6, 653
1925-----	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	547, 361	8, 362
1926-----	193, 971	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	428, 613	8, 916
1927-----	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	302, 795	9, 199
1928-----	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	315, 586	8, 546
May—						
1920-----	26, 555	33, 303	68, 308	55, 544	88, 253	359
1921-----	31, 877	40, 220	53, 973	48, 604	63, 070	473
1922-----	14, 485	38, 844	44, 058	50, 817	50, 196	457
1923-----	14, 593	28, 421	64, 608	93, 199	72, 606	158
1924-----	7, 401	39, 661	45, 584	62, 648	51, 380	307
1925-----	13, 114	22, 415	33, 475	71, 135	38, 977	314
1926-----	12, 558	27, 431	30, 104	58, 154	35, 197	412
1927-----	14, 123	40, 376	21, 634	64, 418	27, 035	612
1928-----	8, 793	38, 728	21, 711	55, 540	28, 148	578
1928						
June-----	8, 230	30, 278	23, 850	53, 436	29, 014	444
July-----	7, 193	19, 417	25, 851	52, 940	31, 268	331
August-----	14, 775	26, 200	14, 913	50, 658	31, 300	253
September--	22, 732	56, 953	13, 956	46, 158	18, 685	810
October-----	28, 548	88, 109	10, 055	59, 865	15, 724	1, 241
November--	16, 195	77, 599	14, 710	67, 716	20, 287	1, 428
December--	12, 053	67, 583	18, 885	86, 358	23, 040	1, 058
1929						
January-----	9, 833	44, 166	24, 669	89, 932	31, 684	787
February-----	8, 948	48, 390	19, 512	65, 924	27, 129	613
March-----	9, 405	30, 602	23, 346	70, 572	31, 190	556
April-----	9, 151	39, 073	25, 062	59, 144	30, 748	454
May-----	16, 128	32, 202	27, 106	64, 192	33, 915	313

¹ Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal 1 barrel of flour.

² Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

³ Includes fresh, canned, and pickled beef; bacon, hams, and shoulders; fresh, canned, and pickled pork; fresh mutton and lamb.

⁴ Excludes linters.